REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

PENDING CLAIMS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.

SUMMARY OF REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action Claims 1-29 are rejected.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 10-11, 17-24, and 27 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ernst (US Patent No. 6,591,278 B1).

The Prior Art

Ernst apparently discloses a data management system "wherein any user associated with a project may access any of the information relevant to the project regardless of the location of each user." (Abstract) Ernst further discloses that the system "permits user to interrelate information items from different locations or different tools" and "may check and maintain the integrity of the information and/or alert each user when there is an inconsistency in any of the information associated with the project." (Abstract) Specifically, Ernst allows data from different engineering tools to be "shared with the other persons associated with the project without each person needing to have access to the particular tool and without each person needing to be an expert at using the particular tool." (col. 8, lines 60-66)

Notably, Ernst does not disclose the application of rule instructions for applying a conditional clause to data received from different engineering tools. Further, Ernst does not disclose using the data management system to monitor and update a project design schedule. Rather, Ernst discloses an integration server that "permits that data generated by a tool be viewed by any other person involved with the project whether or not the person has access to the particular tool." (col. 8, lines 31-35)

The Prior Art Distinguished

Claim 10 includes the language of "[a] plurality of nodes arranged in a hierarchical order." Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Ernst does not disclose a plurality of nodes arranged in a hierarchical order. Rather, Ernst illustrates a number of workgroups identified by location, wherein each workgroup comprises an integration server, browsers, and engineering tools. In fact, Ernst describes the components in FIG. 4 as "a first workgroup 102, a second workgroup 104 and a third workgroup 106 being connected together by a computer network 108." (col. 7, lines 52-55) Ernst does not state or imply that the components are configured to operate in a hierarchical order.

Claim 10 further includes the language of "a rule instruction for applying a conditional clause to data received from one or more nodes." Ernst does not disclose any application of rule instruction to data received from engineering tools. Rather, Ernst discloses a method that "permits that data generated by a tool to be viewed by any other person involved" such that "the product development is more collaborative and information is shared between the engineering groups." (col. 8, lines 31-35; col. 9, lines 18-22)

Claim 10 further includes the language of "an event monitor to trigger execution of one or more of the plurality of instruction primitives in one or more of the nodes in response to an event wherein a single node at a highest level of the hierarchical order produces the status of the product design at the occurrence of the event." Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Ernst does not disclose an interface displaying project status. Rather, Ernst illustrates, in FIG. 14, a "control design model accessed through an XML-based interface to a commercial control design modeling tool." (col. 15, lines 44-52) Ernst does not disclose the production of a design status but discloses an interface that facilitates viewing various aspects of a project model such as design parameters and design logic.

Claim 10 further includes the language of "creates an updated project design schedule." Ernst does not disclose producing a product design status or creating an updated project design schedule.

Dependent Claims

Claims 11, 17-24, and 27 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 10 and are allowable at least for the reasons set forth for independent claim 10.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-9, 12-16, 25-26, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ernst (US Patent No. 6,591,278 B1).

The Prior Art

Ernst is summarized above.

The Prior Art Distinguished

Claim 1 includes the language of "the monitoring engine including software in real-time communication with the first, second, and third software tools, such that the monitoring engine is operative to measure design progress in view of the current state received from the first software tool, the second software tool, and the third software tool; and to produce an updated schedule for designing the end product according to the current state." Ernst does not disclose a monitoring engine for measuring design progress in view of the current state received from engineering tools. Further, Ernst does not disclose using a monitoring engine to measure the design progress extracted from engineering tools and dynamically producing updated design schedules based on the current design progress. The use of a monitoring engine to measure design progress and to update design schedule accordingly is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention disclosed by Ernst.

Claim 28 includes the language of "comparing the actual development cost, as a percentage of the estimated cost, to the percentage of the progress of the design project; and creating a schedule for the electronic design project based on comparing the actual development cost to the percentage of the progress of the design project." Ernst does not disclose comparing the actual development cost as a percentage of the estimated cost to the percentage of the progress of the design project. Further, Ernst does not disclose creating a schedule for an electronic design project based on the comparison between the actual

development cost as a percentage of the estimated cost and the percentage of the current progress.
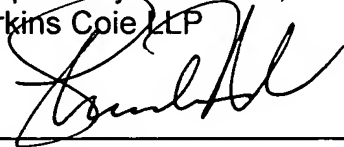
Dependent Claims

Claims 2-9, 12-16, 25-26, and 29 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 10, and 28 and are allowable at least for the reasons set forth for the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the

prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned

counsel at (650) 838-4383 to arrange for such a conference.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment in fees to Deposit

Account No. 50-2207.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: February 15, 2007

Shaalu Mehra
Registration No. 44,934

Correspondence Address:
Customer No. 22918
Perkins Coie LLP
P. O. Box 2168
Menlo Park, California 94026
(650) 838-4300